

Distinguished Women Awards Gala

Saturday, October 24, 2026

The H Hotel • Midland, MI

Evening Program

Cocktail Reception

National Anthem

Invocation

Dinner and Program

Distinguished Women Awards

HISTORY

Since 1970, the Distinguished Women Award has celebrated extraordinary leaders whose contributions exemplify excellence and inspire future generations. Established by the Northwood University Board of Trustees, this prestigious honor recognizes trailblazers who champion women's advancement while embodying The Northwood Idea philosophy. Recipients are highly respected figures who have overcome barriers and create pathways for women through determination, compassion, and ethical leadership across industry, philanthropy, arts, culture, and public life.

At the first Distinguished Women event, Northwood co-founder Dr. Arthur E. Turner presented each honoree with her favorite flower. Today, the yellow rose is showcased throughout the weekend as an enduring symbol of friendship and excellence. At the evening gala, each honoree is presented with a unique bronze medallion crafted by renowned sculptor Giulio Tamassy as a wearable symbol of their induction as a Distinguished Woman.

Throughout the weekend, honorees connect with students at a variety of events, including candid Student Roundtable discussions, and take time to explore campus. Through these meaningful connections, and through mentorship, scholarships, and educational opportunities, Distinguished Women Award recipients transform lives and inspire the next generation of leaders, cultivating a legacy of women's advancement that spans decades.

Distinguished Women Awards Gala

Legacy Circle 2026



The Women In Enterprise Endowed Scholarship Fund

Northwood University believes that educating individuals to take their place as principled business leaders, dedicated to our free-enterprise system, is critical to the future of our country. The Women In Enterprise Endowed Scholarship Fund supports exceptional young individuals in their pursuit of that goal. Since 1994, 73 deserving young recipients have been awarded scholarships through the Women In Enterprise Endowed Scholarship Fund in order to support their quest of *The Northwood Idea.*

Distinguished Women Endowed Scholarship Recipients 2026

Alexander Behles

Cecelia Gibson

Gabrielle Helinski

Camryn Mallory

Eleanor Nagy

Gabriel Schmoll



2026 Sponsors

Legacy Sponsor

SINCE 1962 RICK CASE OVER 60 YEARS AUTOMOTIVE EXCELLENCE

Event Sponsor

Betty and Fred Hardy Charitable Trust in honor of
Betty Boyd Hardy DW ’95

Orchid Sponsor

Catherine A. Eklund Mares DW ’03
in honor of Lynn Heinzerling Stinson DW ’14, Dr. Louise Phipps Crandall DW ’75,
and in memory of the friends we carry with us.

Yellow Rose Brunch Sponsor

Dr. Mary-Ellen MacPhee

Legacy Circle Dinner Sponsors

jolt CREDIT UNION

Patti W. Hamilton DW ’14

Ann DW ’24 and Dr. Ed McBrien ’81

Jennifer (Griffin) ’83, DW ’25 and Dr. Graham Williams

GRAFF BAY CITY

Lilly Sponsors

SMI Snow Makers

Patty Shaheen DW ’16

Marge Hohman DW ’85

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Flower Breakfast Sponsor

Dr. Kristin K. Stehouwer

Gala Menu

RECEPTION

Butler-Passed Hors d'oeuvres

Bourbon Cherry & Brie Bites.

Sweet Potato Chips with Avocado, Tajín & Lemon Zest.

DINNER

Salad

Roasted Apple & Goat Cheese Salad:
Mixed greens, candied pecans, roasted apples, crumbled goat cheese and dried cranberries with apple cider vinaigrette.

Duet Entrée

Filet of Beef with Smoked Cherry Demi-Glace.

Mushroom & Spinach Stuffed Chicken with Fig & Pinot Noir Reduction.

Rosemary Potato Pavé • Herb-Roasted Baby Carrots

DESSERT

FALL DESSERT SELECTIONS AT EACH TABLE

Pumpkin Cheesecake Bites.

Cranberry Almond Tartlets.

Chocolate Mousse Cups with Hot Chocolate Whipped Cream.

Northwood University History

Since 1959, Northwood University students have learned the meaning of freedom and all its corollaries: individualism, moral law, personal responsibility, private property, free markets, limited government and business enterprise. Northwood University graduates recognize the benefits and value of ethical capitalism and the positive effects it has on this country and the world.

We know America needs more business leaders who believe and understand that free enterprise is the economic engine that built this nation. Northwood University has concluded that now, more than ever, its mission is critical to the young men and women of our nation and the world. Northwood University will continue to stand as a beacon knowing that ethical business matters for all people.

Private, not-for-profit and accredited, Northwood University specializes in managerial and entrepreneurial education at its residential campus in Midland, Michigan. Northwood Online, our virtual campus, offers a convenient and affordable educational solution tailored to the busy schedules of adult learners. The Richard DeVos Graduate School of Management offers classroom, executive and online MBA programs, Master of Science programs and Doctoral programs. International education is offered through study-abroad programs and in Program Centers in Switzerland, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, and locations in France.

Our Values

We affirm the natural calling in every human heart to be free. Our academic community welcomes all individuals, their distinctive talents, and fosters their potential to make a difference through a life well spent.

Our Vision

We envision a future of sustained enrollment growth, strategic investment in our people and facilities, and an academic environment that shapes principled leaders for a prosperous free enterprise society.

Northwood Mission Statement

We develop free-enterprise leaders.

Code of Ethics

Northwood students, faculty, and staff affirm this Code of Ethics that advances our mission, vision, and values.

FREEDOM
Exercise personal freedom and accountability that uplifts and respects individual freedom for all.

RESPECT
Treat everyone with consideration for their circumstances and with thoughtful regard for their value as human beings.

EMPATHY
Show compassion for the feelings, thoughts, and conditions of others.

SPIRITUALITY
Seek spiritual growth that strengthens our sense of meaning and purpose, sharpens our perspective, and fosters a deeper respect for life, learning, service, and well-being.

HONESTY
Embrace truthfulness, fairness, and probity, and demand the absence of fraud or deceit in ourselves and others.

ACHIEVEMENT
Demonstrate persistence, determination, and effort in order to achieve our goals and applaud the high achievement of others.

INTEGRITY
Act in accordance with our values regardless of circumstance, personal gain, public pressure, or private temptation.

RESPONSIBILITY
Be accountable for the care and welfare of others and responsible for the intended and unintended consequences of our actions.

Distinguished Women of Northwood University

2026 - 1970

2026
Legacy Circle
+Anna Hyatt Huntington

2025
Anne Doyle
Eileen Sieff Stroup
E'Lois Thomas, Ph.D.
Jennifer (Griffin) Williams

2024
Anne Hathaway
Sharon Johnson
Mary Kissel
Diane R. Maher
Ann McBrien

2023
Brooke VanderKelen Alba
Mary Ellen Hess
Gail Perry-Mason
Alice Croll Sieloff
Lydia Watson, MD, CPE
Amy E. Wilson

2022
Junia Doan
Grace Chu Huang
Nicole Glenn
Carolyn Clifford Goss
Wendy H. Steele
Sanya L. Weston

2021
Tina Lynn Hubbard
Mindie Kaplan
Melanie Kalmar
Martha Reeves
Holly Miller
Sharon A. Mortensen
Jenée L. Velasquez

2020 - No event (Pandemic)

2019
Mary Anderson
JoAnn T. Crary
Kristen Hadeed
Molly MacDonald
Kathleen A. McCann
Sandy Lamerson Morrison
Rhonda Walker

2018
Roberta (Bobbie) Arnold
Mary Callaghan Lynch
Karen S. Carter
Dr. Dolly Clement
Lisa Phillips
Annette Rummel
Linda Shinkle Rodney

2017
Katie Bowman Coleman
Eileen A. Curtis
Pamela Good
Patricia Leonard
Catherine Monson
Elyse M. Rogers
Judy Zehnder

2016
Celeste D. Briggs
Audrey Peterson Kline
+Maureen L. LaFontaine
Terri Mulcahey
Judith Schumacher-Tilton
Patricia Anne Shaheen
Deborah Haines Stephens

2015
Margaret Cooney Casey
Stephanie D. Curtis
Margery Krevsky Dosey
Candice Miller
Faye Nelson
Brenda S. Rowley
Jennifer Valoppi
Donna Yost

2014
Laurie Cunnington
Tamara Darvish
Patti Webster Hamilton
Donna Niester
Catherine Rodewald
+Lynn Heinzerling Stinson
Martha Russell Tiller

2013
Patricia Chambers
Margaret Peale Everett
Congresswoman Kay Granger
Harriet Miers
Linda Orlans
Mayor Mary Roche
+Lorraine Schultz
Mary Ann Thompson-Frank

2012
Gail Ayers
Gray Hawn
Donalyn Kling
Charlene Lake
Lynn Mc Bee
Cynthia Pasky
Jocelyn Straus
Kimberly Schlegel Whitman

2011
Robyn Flatt
Brenda L. Hill-Riggins
Janet P. Kafka
Stacie McDavid
Kimberly J. McWaters
Patricia Rhodes-Prowse
D'Andra C. Simmons
Pat K. Tigrett

2010
Elizabeth Acton
Wanda R. Brice
Karen E. Burke
Kerry R. Graham
Julie K. Hersh
Ruta Lee
Petra Levin
Goldie B. Wolfe Miller
Jan Dedrie Strimple
Margaret Daniels Tyler

2009
Claudia Waldmann Fry
Sharon J. Harper
Samantha R. Landy
Susan D. Nine
Margie Traylor
Gail Warrior
Sandra G. Yancey

2008
Theo Gilbert-Jamison
Betty W. Hrncir
Dee Lincoln
Pat Montandon
Tara I. Stacom
S. Annette Sykora
Dee Wyly

2007
Linda Alvarado
Sandra Bond Chapman, Ph.D.
Pamella DeVos
Nancy Greenbach
Kathryn Walt Hall
+Eleanor M. Josaitis
Barbara Mahar Lincoln
Myrtle Potter

2006
Leslie Ann Crozier
Barbara Daseke
Dr. Kathleen A. Davis
Bobbie Gaunt
Nancy B. Loeffler
Alice Rodriguez
Barb Samardzich
Lyn St. James

2005
Elaine B. Agather
Lee Bailey
Sherry H. Baker
Rita Case
Laura R. Grafman
Katherine Houston
Regina Lopez
+Millie A. Pastor
Gail French Torreano

2004
Congresswoman Mary Bono
Ruth Buzzi
Gail Duncan
+Vera Gajitch
Mary Hart
Sue Herera
Sharon Haines Jacquet
Kit T. Moncrief
Mrs. Franklin D. "Tobie" Roosevelt, Jr.
Ariela Shani
JoAnne Shaw
Nina Vaca

+ Deceased

Distinguished Women of Northwood University

2003
The Honorable Donna Arp
Colleen C. Barrett
Doris Buffett
Vicky Cayetano
Susan L. Dell
Dianne Dunkelman
+Lil Erdeljan
Barbara Doljack Hayes
Catherine Ann Mares
Geraldine "Tincy" Miller
Helen M. Reinsch
Nelia Cruz Sarcol
Kathleen Schmatz
+Reneé T. Silvester
+Gladys M. Sullivan
Jongjit Thapanangkun
Mary McLean Wilson

2002
Phyllis George
Helene Strauss Gralnick
+Henrietta, Countess de Hoernle
Geneva Bolton Johnson
Chris Meyers
+Tommie Pardue
Noreen Parker
Linda Solomon
Helen Biggs Willingham

2001
Barbara McConnell Barrett
+Alicia Blodgett
Barbara Taylor Bradford
Yvonne H. Crum
+Catherine Gamble Curran
Luella G. Goldberg
Sarah "Sally" Sloan
Senator Olympia Snowe
Tina Sutow Van Dam

2000
Maggie Allesee
Carolyn A. Berry
Rosanette S. Cullen
Lynn Ferron
+Ruth Fertel
Eileen C. McDonnell
Aimée Morner Merszei
+Susan T. Pickering
Sandy Crowley Schwartz

1999
+Margaret Alkek
Elizabeth Peale Allen
+Letitia Baldrige
Gail Berendzen
Elizabeth Dole
Denise Ilitch
Priscilla Mack
Betty Mann
+Florine Mark
Alexandra Stoddard
+Helen Thomas

1998
+Betty Jane Schmidt DiVosta
C. Andrea Gueramy
Dr. Christi Harris
Dr. Myra Maloney Hart
Frances Hesselbein
+Jackie Lee Houston
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
+Jane W. Norris
Margaret Alkek Williams

1997
+Roberta R. Allen
Deborah I. Dingell
Gay Hart Gaines
Nancy R. Joaquim
+Virginia H. Knauer
+Camille Lavington
Carolyn C. Lupton
Vera P. Rivers
Karla Scherer
Barbara S. Tober
Frankie Welch
Louise Woerner

1996
+Dorris Carr Bonfigli
+Fleur Cowles
Carolyn Farb
+Florence Henderson
Sue Marx
Paula Kent Meehan
Pat Moran
Lori Sarner
Dr. Maureen Smith
Sistie H. Stollenwerck
Ruthanne Wise

1995

+Dr. Dollie A. Cole
Nancy Conrad
+Emajean (Pat) Cook
Arlene Dahl
+Betty Hardy
Priscilla S. Kuhn
+Bessylee D. Penland
Faith Stewart-Gordon
Cynthia W. Vanek

1994

+Ann Simmons Alspaugh
Marcia M. Brogan
Margaret C. Donnelley
+Julia M. Edwards
Danielle Clark Ellis
+Lois Sloan Gaigalas
Penny Hawkey
Joan Helpern
+Anne S. Louison
+Patricia Neal
Harriet Band Rotter
Nettie H. Seabrooks
+Nell M.H. Smith
Barbera H. Thornhill
+Margaret Whiting

1993

+Helen DeVos
Michelle Engler
Dr. Sonya Friedman
Barbara Hurwitz
+Eleanor Lambert
Patricia B. Meadows
Judith Terra
+Susan Bagby Tilley
Debra Warner
+Irene S. Wischer

1992

+Rosamond Bernier
Bernadette Castro
Dr. Lynne V. Cheney
Arlette B. Gordon
+Billye S. Halbouty
+Wendy Reves
+Peggy Rowley
+Barbara Tucker
Jamie Wood

1991

+Carmalee DeGeorge
Patricia de Stacy Harrison
+Kate Rand Lloyd
Joan M. MacGillivray
+Jeannette McIntyre
Marge Predeteanu
+Dr. Rita Rogers
Sandy Smith
+The Hon. Annette Strauss

1990

Joan C. Gist
+Elizabeth Graber
+Beverly Hagood Holmes
+Barbara Lane Jefferson
+Shirley M. Kleckner
Susan J. MacKellar
Lynne Meadow
Amb. Selwa “Lucky” Roosevelt
Sandy Schreier
+Marion A. Shea
Phyllis M. Taylor

1989

Carey Adina
+Ruth Sharp Altshuler
+Gertrude R. Crain
+Emalie M. Dodson
+Eleanor Searle Whitney McCollum
Roberta Peters
Judith Ann Rapanos
Regina J. Rogers
+Muriel Siebert

1988

+Margaret Long Arnold
+Carolyn Cook Bookout
+Susan Golick
+Rosalie Hearst
Martha Ivey Kim
Gail Ann Liniger
The Hon. Katherine D. Ortega
+Alicia Spaulding Paolozzi
Debbi Fields Rose
Yvonne Watkins

1987

Nancy G. Brinker
+Rildia Bee O’Bryan Cliburn
+Karen DiChiera
+Denny Griswold
Ceejay Heckenberg

+ Deceased

Distinguished Women of Northwood University

+Wilhelmina Cole Holladay
Mary V. (Gallagher) Paul
Dr. Florence Dinghy Spaulding-Sharp
+Jessie Verna Stone

1986

+Mary Kay Ash
+Florence Knoll Bassett
+Grace M. Benson
Dr. Linda Brock
+Dr. Holland H. Coors
+Venita W. VanCaspel Harris
Carla A. Hills
+Dr. Gretchen Josey
+Judith Peabody
Merna Sallop Popper
Zandra Rhodes

1985

+Martha G. Arnold
Sen. Nancy Kassebaum Baker
+Lorraine Bolen Bland
+Carole Ann Brown
Marjorie McIntyre Hohman
+Meredith Fernstrom Layer
+Bettie Compton McKinney
+Dorothy Haas Rautbord
+Gloria Vanderbilt
+Myrtle D. Willey
+Vivian Wilcox Young

1984

+Alison Stilwell Cameron
Sue Yager Cook
Susanne Forbes Dicker
Cathy Guisewite
+Bella Lewitzky
+The Hon. Donna Morris
Morgan Dunn O'Connor
+Julie Rogers
+Estelle Brown Stewart (Brownie)
Janne Williams

1983

+Doris Dixon
+Patricia Peckinpaugh Hubbard
+Caroline Rose Hunt
Martha Rowan Hyder
+Marion Lederer
+Lucy M. Lewis
+Dr. Patricia L. Naegele
+Patricia Cameron Peardon
Deborah Szekely
+Jane Young Wallace

1982

+Audrey G. Baird
+Shirley Brooks
Herme deWyman
+Helen T. Findlay
+Margaret Dodge Garrett
Jeannine Monique Levitt Riccio
Countess Aline de Romanones
+Viscountess Harriet de Rosiere
Dr. Joan Hendricks Swalwell
Kristen Venable

1981

+Scottie Buehler
+Mary Ellen Chumley
+The Hon Mary Stallings Coleman
+Lillian Gish
+Lois C. Hamilton
+Barbara Hetherington
+Kay Obergfel-Gregory
+Ruth Stafford Peale
+Sylvia Porter
Judith Dow Rumelhart

1980

+Josephine Ashmun
+Helen Boehm
+Loredana da Schio
Muriel Fox
+Greer Garson
+Maliha S. Hamady
Betsy Duncan Hammes
+Evelyn Pitschke
+Ursula DeGeorge Simpson
Joan Evelyn Titus

1979

+Betty K. Buchanan
+Barbara C. Dow
+Dorothy Brown Herkimer
+Marian Larson
+Mildred (Brownie) McLean
+Helen W. Milliken
Brenda Rosenberg
+Edna M. Rothbart

+Betti Hellinger Salzman
+Marguerite Perkins Shooshan

1978

+Caroline Leonetti Ahmanson
+Sirpuhe Philibosian Conte
Contessa Maria Cristina
Cini Dal Pozzo D'Annone
Elizabeth H. Fox
+Rosalind Kress Haley
Tina S. Hills
+Martha H. Lynch
+Nesta Sawyer Obermer, O.B.E.
+Lorice Schmid
Ann Wilson Smock

1977

+Patricia Hill Burnett
+Dr. Hannah B. Church
+Adeline Oppenheimer Fieger
+Claire Giannini Hoffman
+Dr. Celeste Holm
Faith Lyles
+Flavia Paulon
+Margaret Postmus
+Maria Tallchief
+Martha Zeder

1976

+Marion M. Bartush
+Marie Brooks
Countess Mariuccia
De Lord Rinaldi Carosio
+Esther Gerstacker
+Miriam Mitchell
+Caroline Penney
+Beverly A. Rice
Doris L. Sassower
+Senator Margaret Chase Smith
+Dorothy Volk

1975

+Eleanor L. Bricker
+Dr. Louise Phipps Crandall
+Contessa Barbara Emo
+Phyllis Freeman
+Jeri Joseph
+Willie Mae Rogers
+Anne Swan
+Madeleine Wade
+Edna Woodard-Van Riper
+Pauline Young

1974

+June Braun
+Esther Dorothy
+Vera K. Ford
+Jane Fortune
+Margaret Hurt
+Lucille MacPherson
+Dr. Juanita Miller
+Jane Owen
+Virginia Stanton
+Jean Stark
+Dr. Willa Stauffer
+Dr. Johann Turner

1973

+Helen Buchanan
Countess Maria Teresa
Ceschi a Santa Croce
+Mrs. Frank A. Dixon, Jr.
(Patricia)
+Dr. Mary John
+Dr. Virginia Linthicum
+Helen Kretschmer Meyer
+Betty Mitchell
+Hope Skillman Schary
Mardi Schma
+Wanda Shelton-Farmer
+Dorothy Sohrweide
+Dr. Rosina Tamassy
+Dr. Mary M. Tarzian
+Jean Thomas
+Marie Uihlein

1972

+Phoebe Barstow
+Dr. Mary Jane Bostick
+Clara Brucker
+Dr. Cecil Amelia
+Blaffer Furstenberg
+Dr. Dorothy Gregg
+Vera Griswold
+Louise Hadler
+Mary Elizabeth Hart
+Ann Kidd
+Jane Lanphar
+Gwendolyn E. Maywood
+Henrietta L. McInally
+Mildred Short
+Dame Freya Stark
+Lucille Whitston

+ Deceased

Distinguished Women of Northwood University

1971

+Jodie Biddle
+Peg Bradley
+Nancy Collinson
+Kay Dalby
Barbara Hackman Franklin
Mary Wells Lawrence
+Martha McKenney
+Moxie Mulrooney
+Virginia Nick
+Livia Papini
+Dr. Dorothy Ross
+Marjorie W. Sallie
Dr. Harriet C. Stout
+Frances Tracy
Paula Ulmer

1970

+Alicia Ballard
Nancy L. Barker
+Val Imm Bashour
+Betty Brooke Blake
Dr. Barbara Carras
+Eleanor Currie
+Dr. Vada B. Dow
+Dr. Jane Murchison Haber
+Dr. Winifred Hirsch
+Dr. Evelyn Lambert
+Grace Reed
+Marie Shackleton
+Dr. Clara VanderKloot
+Carolyn Watts
+Jean T.E. Wolf

+ Deceased



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